

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/782,220

Examiner

Thierry L. Pham

Applicant(s)

AKIYAMA, HIDEKI

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Notice of appeal and pre-appeal conference filed on 6/8/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 2.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: Notice of appeal and pre-appeal conference request filed on 6/8/07 and authorized Examiner's amendment dated 7/13/07.
- Claims 1-2 are allowed and claim 3 has been canceled as the results of authorized Examiner's amendment. Claims 1-2 are amended to include "a computer readable medium storing", see Examiner's amendment for details.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see pages 1-4, filed 6/8/07, with respect to claims 1-2 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The prior art rejection of claims 1-2 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-2 are allowable over prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The cited prior arts (applicant's admitted prior art, US 6181436 to Kurachi, and US 5671669 to Okuda et al) of record teach an image forming apparatus for forming images on a printer, however, the cited prior arts of record fail to teach and/or suggest a printer driver having features of determining whether a watermark print item is selected on the setting items, the printer driver automatically selects a secret operation item if the watermark item has been selected, wherein secret operation item instructing the stencil printing machine to remove a used stencil sheet from a print drum and dispose of used stencil sheet after said number of copies have been printed and in combinations of other features" as cited in independent claims 1-2. The examiner found neither prior art cited in its entirety, nor based on the prior art, found any motivation to combine any of prior arts that teaches the above limitations and in combinations of other features cited in claims 1-2.

Conclusion

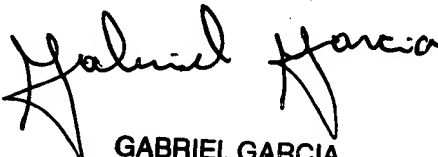
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-7439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Thierry L. Pham


GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Matthew Moffa on 7/13/07.

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a printer driver provided at a host computer while said host computer is connected to a stencil printing machine through communications, for setting items of various printing conditions for said stencil printing including a number of copies to be printed,

wherein the various setting items for said printing conditions are displayed;

if the printer driver determines that a watermark print item is selected on the setting items, the printer driver automatically selects a secret operation item said secret operation item instructing said stencil printing machine to remove a used stencil sheet from a print drum and dispose of said used stencil sheet after said number of copies have been printed; and

information on the items are transmitted, together with the print data, to the stencil printing machine.

2. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a printer driver, provided at a host computer while said host computer is connected to a stencil printing machine through

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communications, for setting items of various printing conditions for said stencil printing machine including a number of copies to be printed,

wherein the various setting items for said printing conditions are displayed;

if a watermark print item is selected on the setting items, a selection screen of a secret operation item for allowing said stencil printing machine to execute a secret keeping operation for print data secret is displayed;

the items are made selectable;

if the printer driver determines that said secret operation item is selected, the printer driver automatically selects a secret keeping operation for print data, said secret keeping operation instructing said stencil printing machine to remove a used stencil sheet from a print drum and dispose of said stencil sheet after said number of copies have been printed; and

information on the selected items are transmitted, together with print data, to the stencil printing machine.

3. (Canceled).